NEW PHAZES

Volume: 5 **Issue:** 10 **Date:** May, 1990

Dear Community,

Greetings from your newsletter staff.

A couple of business matters: If you're the woman identified in our classifieds as NP12, please send us your address. We have a response we're sure you don't want to miss, but no address or phone number for you. Write us or call Debora at 389-0545.

If you'd like to join the sweet and thoughtful ranks of women who are sending New Phazes gift subscriptions to loved ones, drop us a line. The tab is a measly $6 for a full year.

Happy gardening! And for those of you who know diamonds are a girl's best friend, happy softball!

The Staff

Contacts:
Send information & mail list changes to:
NEW PHAZES
P.O.Box 6485
Colorado Springs, CO 80934

Community information:
Together As One
Cheryl - 473-2552

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

COLORADO SPRINGS, THE USUAL:

MAY 6,13,20,26	JoAnne Robinson, Harpist. Adams Mountain Ranch Cafe, Manitou Springs 6:00-8:00pm Sundays.
MAY 7,14,21,28	Gay A.A. meeting 8:00pm. Mondays
MAY 7,14,21,28	Lesbian Issues Therapy Group. 6:00pm. 632-0465 Mondays.
MAY 3,10,17,18,25	Sisters of Sappho. Thursdays. 471-4422
MAY 3,10,17,18,25	Phil Volan, acoustic guitarist, Adams Mountain Cafe, Manitou Springs, 6:00-8:00pm,Thursdays.
MAY 4,11,18,25	Gay A.A. meeting 8:00pm. Fridays.
MAY 5,12,19,26	Gay A.A. meeting 8:00pm. Saturdays

COLORADO SPRINGS, THE NOT SO USUAL:

MAY 2,9,16,23,30	Cub Foods Shopping, don't forget to save receipts for the Humane Society.
MAY	RECYCLE,REPAIR,RESTRAIN,REBUILD,REJOICE FOR THE PLANET EARTH.
MAY 31 JUNE 1 & 2	Womyn's Theater Collective Presents: 8X10 Glossy See story inside.

DENVER, THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING:

MAY 3	3RD ANNUAL "AIDS Medicine and Miracles" Elizabeth Kubler Ross and Annette Goodheart are featured speakers. Info (303) 447-8777.

OTHER STUFF

May 11	Workshop "The Dynamics of Shame" Friday 9am-4pm Boulder Theater. Info (303)443-5858.
MAY 25,26,27	WIMMINFEST '90 Albuquerque NM. (505) 873-2950.
JUNE 24	Pridefest for more information you can write: P.O. Box Drawer E, Denver, CO 80218 (303)831-6268 / (303) 837-1598.

Letters

If you or any of your friends shop Cub Foods, you can help the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region. Simply bring or mail your Cub Foods cash register receipts to the humane society. The society will in turn send them to Cub Foods, which will pay the society 1 percent of the total purchase price on the receipts. The more receipts you give, the more money is earned for the animals. Receipts must not be more than 45 days old and cannot be torn or pieced together. Only original receipts will be accepted.

Another way to help the society is to bring in aluminum cans; if you have enough, the society will pick them up. The humane society is located at 633 S. 8th St., 80905, 473-1741.

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Dear New Phazes,

Thank you for your publication. I am not a bar person and New Phazes lets me keep in touch with what's going on in the community.
Please find enclosed my subscription, two classifieds and a donation to help keep New Phazes solvent. Being a manager of a business myself, I know how hard that can be sometimes.

Having read New Phazes for the last six months, I have enjoyed all features. There is one I haven't seen that I would also enjoy - a book review. I enjoy reading and patronizing Together As One; however, choosing a book is always difficult. With a review in New Phazes, maybe Together As One could run a "Book of the Month" special with a coupon in New Phazes. I don't feel that I could contribute a review but if you could find someone willing I think it would benefit New Phazes and Together As One as well as the whole community. Thank you again for all your hard work on our behalf.

Diane H.

Editors' note: Thank you for the suggestion. We've been trying to find someone to do that very thing. Anybody out there?

****

Sappho Sunday:

June 3rd is the date to save for a summer gathering to be held in a local park. This will be a pot-luck picnic sponsored by Sisters of Sappho. Many activities are planned, as well as leisure time-in-the-sun to celebrate the 10th year of continuous meeting of this local women's support group.

This group was previously know as "Count-me-in" when it started 10 years ago as a safe place for people to gather and talk. The group prospered, floundered, grew and changed. As the group evolved it became a women's discussion group and thus the name was changed to S.O.S. (Sisters of Sappho) and continues to meet weekly in a local home.

This event is open to any women in the community and will be a great way to see old friends and a chance to make new friends. For further information, call the help line at 471-4429.

health notes from

WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICE CLINIC

Cancer Survivor Tells Her Story

The Goddess has her ways, doesn't she? I'm a Lesbian and a women's health care nurse practitioner. Over the years I have done literally thousands of pap smears on women in our community, but in 1985 I was like the shoemaker's barefoot child: I hadn't had a pap smear in over a year. I asked a friend who is a nurse practitioner to do my exam. She and I both remember me telling her to be sure to get a good endocervical sample.

On some level I knew. The pap smear returned a Class IV - highly suspicious for malignancy.

I went to a gynecologist who was sure the result was an error. "You're only 39," he said. "We'll do a couple of biopsies here in the office. You may have to come back for a cervical freeze (a technique which re-surfaces the cervix), but that shouldn't be a problem." I returned a week later to learn that it was a problem. The biopsies showed invasive cancer.

"Well, we'll do a cone biopsy," the doctor said. "That should take care of it."

Outpatient surgery. General anesthesia. The struggle back through the drugs and disorientation to try and figure out where I was and why my crotch hurt so much.

A week later I sat across the desk from the same doctor, who now wore a different expression. The cancer had grown beyond the margins of the larger biopsy. My formerly cavalier doctor began talking radical hysterectomy, with removal of my uterus and tubes and ovaries and pelvic lymph nodes and various adjacent giblets and gizzards whose names vaporized before me in an I'm-leaving-my-body-now haze.

Ultimately, I had a simple hysterectomy. I intuitively felt that only my uterus needed to removed, not everything from the neck down. I chose the best male gynecologist I could find because I couldn't find a female gynecologist who was pro-choice.

I feel fortunate. I received excellent medical care from everyone I had encountered, and my family and friends were terrific.

As of this month, I have survived five years since my diagnosis, an achievement which earns me the statistical possibility of a normal life expectancy. The insurance companies seem to think so, anyway. I'm not particularly reassured by anybody's statistics, but I can say I'm grateful to be here.

Life after cancer is different. If my back ached before, I'd think about my overzealous yard work, take an aspirin, and forget it. Now, I think about yard work, take some aspirin, but I wonder .... could it be back, could it have spread? The question doesn't run my life, but it's there. Familiar. Not to be ignored.

The other inevitable question for every cancer survivor is, "Why me?" The only answer I'm sure of, for myself, is that I'm expected to carry the message, and the message is simple: If you haven't had a pap smear in the past 12 months (or 12 years), it's important to get one. Call your doctor. Call Women's Health Service Clinic, or Planned Parenthood, or the county health department, or the community health center, but do it now. Make an appointment. And keep it.

If you're nervous, take someone with you - your lover or neighbor. Tell the medical staff you're apprehensive and they'll reassure you. Request a narrow speculum (they do come in sizes!) if you're worried about the exam being painful. If you're uncomfortable at any time, tell your examiner and she'll help walk you through the exam. If she doesn't, leave and find yourself a medical provider who will treat you well. You deserve it.

-Nancy Wilsted

NEWS FROM THE FRONT

EDITORIAL

The United States' recent invasion of Panama raised anew the question of women's role in the military. Several articles in the Gazette Telegraph presented different aspects of the question. Most of this editorial is drawn from the Jan 14, 1990 GT article, "Women in Combat," by Ricki Morell.

This is a good place to clarify who I am. I am not a member, nor a staff person of New Phazes. I am just a very opinionated Lesbian who despises oppression and its weapons: sexism, racism and homophobia. Thus, whatever I say in my editorials are my own opinions - not those of New Phazes.

I have a friend who recently suggested that my son join ROTC as a means of financing his education. She said that even women could join now. Her tone of voice and words implied that if a women could make it in ROTC, then certainly a man could. Her attitude is typical of some people who hold sexist, stereotypes of women as weak and in need of protection.

The belief that women are not physically capable of combat is sexist because there is no scientific, physiological, biological or historical evidence to support it. Let's look at some sexist reasons for women not being allowed in combat.

Ben Schemmer, Armed Forces Journal editor, has been quoted as saying that "it's the American psyche to protect our women and children. It's always been women and children first." Are women and children really put first in this country, when three out of five women are sexually abused as children and domestic violence is rampant (affecting 300,000 women each year)? Are children put first when child abuse is abundant and adequate health care or housing is not provided for children? Are children protected when there are 220,000 to 750,000 homeless school-age children nationwide?

Schemmer has also been quoted as saying that women can do the job (combat). HOORAY!! But, he said, "it (women in combat) would be such a distraction to the males in those units that they might not accomplish their missions." I bet the women would!!! The point is: Are we responsible for men's inability to control themselves? Sounds to me as if the men are the weak ones.

Rep. Pat Schroeder hit the nail on the head when she said that "combat exclusion doesn't keep women out of combat, as we've seen down in Panama (and I might say Vietnam, Korea and all other wars). It really keeps them from promotion." This is the crux of the matter. If women don't serve in combat, they won't be promoted and won't be put into positions of decision-making. A basic principle of management is that staff (support) jobs never have decision-making authority and never lead "to the top". Only line (combat) jobs lead to the top. Thus, women are denied access to being on the Joints Chiefs of Staff or being Secretary of the Army. -Pat Killen

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Do Your Part To Help Mother Earth Stop A Nuisance While Your At It

New Phazes would like to give you suggestions on how to help save our environment. These ideas are easy for each of us to do and hopefully we can all make a difference. We believe that's what it's going to take - each one of us doing what we can in our own way. Here is this month's suggestion:

1) STOP JUNK MAIL

Background: We don't usually think of junk mail as an environmental hazard - just a nuisance. But if you saved up all the unwanted paper you'll receive in the mail this year, you'd have the equivalent of 1 1/2 trees. And so would each of your neighbors. And that adds up to about 100 million trees every year.

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* About 44 percent of junk mail is never even opened or read.

* Nonetheless, the average American still spends eight full months of his or her life just opening junk mail.

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* If only 100,000 people stopped their junk mail, we could save about 150,000 trees every year. If a million people did, we could save 1.5 million trees.

SIMPLE THINGS TO DO

* Write to: *Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, 11 West 42nd St. PO Box 3861, New York, NY 10163-3861.* They'll stop your name from being sold to most large mailing-list companies. This will reduce your junk mail by as much as 75%.
* **Recycle the junk mail you already get:** If it's printed on newsprint, toss it in with the newspapers. If it's quality paper, make a separate pile for it - many recycling centers accept both white and colored paper. Envelopes are recyclable, too, as long they don't have plastic windows in them - just tear them out.

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The ones born with AIDS

The ones born shaking, screaming in malnutrition.

Where do they go? Whose home will hold them, love them?

Conceived under selfish, irresponsible conditions.

Only to be treated as an unwanted finished product.

The reminder of a mistake that won't go away.

There is no life here.

There is no lesson to be learned

This unwanted baby will be beaten, humiliated, tortured and finally tossed to the street with all the rest of the unwanted garbage.

Where is the hope

Where is the dream

Can anyone help them see what life is supposed to be

Will they, can they ever really feel trust, love and comfort from someone?

When will the cycle stop?

The unwanted child born but has no life.

The child that never got to play, to dance, to sing.

The one that was thrown away to the street

tonite finds peace

as they lay,

in the unmarked grave.

Regina/1990

I Am So Smitten With You.

You walked into my life one bright July day
Since then things just seem to go my way
I haven't felt this way for so long
I haven't had feelings that have been this strong
All I seem to think about is you
can these feelings really be true
It feels so very good to be alive
these feelings come as quite a surprise
Every day seems shiney and new
and it all happened the day I met you
I don't ever want these feelings to end
So I'll act to you, as only your friend
If you knew how I felt, would it scare you away
Would you know what to do
would you know what to say
It's been so long since I've been touched like this
Someone to fill me with a little happiness
Therefore I will keep my feelings at bay
Hoping one day I will be able to say
I care for you, and I want you to know
Whatever you do or wherever you go
I will be there for you, my feelings are true
I hope one day, you'll feel the same way too

Written By: Madelaine

To "Out" Or Not To "Out?"
Forcing Public Figures Out Of The Closet

Few privileges are more sacrosanct in the gay community than the right to decide for oneself when and whether to tell friends, family, co-workers or even strangers, "I'm homosexual."

But the AIDS epidemic has produced a new generation of militant gays who believe not only that every homosexual should come out of the closet, but that those public figures who refuse should be kicked out, and the door locked behind them.

"Public figures don't have a right to privacy," says Ann Northrup, a gay youth counselor in New York and a member of AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACTUP). "They certainly have a right to privacy about what particular sex acts they perform, but in terms of sexual orientation, no, I don't believe they have a right to privacy.

"Outweek," a New York magazine devoted to making the world more hospitable to gays, has gained notoriety for gleefully pushing famous people to the edge of the closet and leaving them clinging by their fingernails. The magazine has published provocative features, letters and a column, "Peek-A-Boo...." which names prominent people, leaving readers to draw their own conclusions. An "Outweek" editorial rationalized that "outing" people was for the benefit of gay and Lesbian youth who need role models.

Some gay political activists disagree.

"We will not make the decision for anybody, public figure or private citizen, to bring them out of the closet, no matter what they're doing in public life," said Urvashi Vaid, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington.

Timothy McFeeley, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, a gay rights lobbying group, shares Vaid's opinion.

"On a more philosophical level, I object to the practice because I think what our movement is really about is privacy and allowing people a certain area of privacy even if they're public figures," he said.

Thomas Stoddard, an attorney with the Lamda Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York, said he can envision circumstances under which it might be justified to "out" somebody.

"If sexual orientation is related in some fashion to job performance or evaluation of job performance, then that issue is an appropriate subject of public discussion or disclosure," he said.

Robert Bauman, a former conservative Maryland congressman who lost his seat in 1980 after being arrested for soliciting sex with a teen-age boy, said he could not justify pushing anybody out of the closet.

"It would be better if everyone voluntarily decided to identify themselves in their own circles or publicly, if that was appropriate," he said. "Because then, everyone would see the extent of gay and Lesbian presence in America and the world."

From the Associated Press

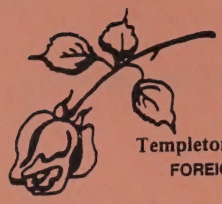
Gay Family Project Established

Last month, New Phazes reported that the Human Rights Campaign Fund, a pro-gay political action committee, has created a National Family Registry for homosexual families.

Now, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund is also in a family way. The fund has initiated the Family Relationship Project to extend the legal rights of homosexual families nationwide.

"The Project will work for dignity and respect for all families, both legally and culturally," says Paula Ettelbrick, legal director for the fund. "It will fight especially to eliminate the second-class status now accorded Lesbian and gay relationships."

You can support the Family Relationship Project by joining Lambda with a tax-deductible contribution. Send a check payable to LLDEF, or write for more information, to: Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, 666 Broadway, New York, NY 10012-9996.



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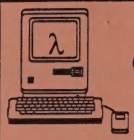

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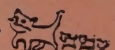

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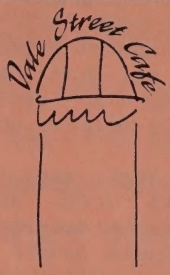

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Dear Sappho

Dear Sappho:

I'm not sure how to ask you this, but I've decided I'm going to find a way. A few months ago, I had a flash in my mind of my father doing some things to me that were really inappropriate. I can't possibly tell anyone about this. My family would say I was lying, and my friends would, too. Since then, I've had more flashes, more nightmares, and more awful feelings. I'm not sure what's going on, but it scares me to death. I want to tell someone, but I'm afraid to. I don't know what to do. I thought you might know.

Me

Dear Me:

I assume you are refering to incest. You are right, it is terribly frightening. One of the most important things to do for yourself, however, is to talk about it. Talking to friends and family members at this point may be against your best interest; only you would know for sure. There are many counselors, therapists, and doctors out there who can and will help you through this time. I urge you to reach out to one or more of them. A good place to start is the Pikes Peak Mental Health Center. Not only do they offer crisis counseling, but they also offer referrals throughout the community.

Incest is a terrible crime. Although we would like to think it is rare, it is not. Unfortunately, the statistics are very high. You are not alone. There are people out there who have gone through what you are now dealing with. Joining with them will be healing. For now, however, take the first step and call a counselor. Silence is the poison of incest; without silence, incest could not go on. Breaking that silence is the crucial first step. Please be kind to yourself and step out of your isolation. I'm glad you had the courage to write. My heart is with you.

Sappho

Dear Sappho:

I have a friend who I seem to have scared. There was an attraction between us that we both admitted, but when I kissed her goodnight, she left and has not answered any of my calls since. I want to get to know her, even if we just stay friends. I don't think she's angry with me; I think she's just scared. What should I do?

Help

Dear Help:

Obviously, you cannot work through it with your friend unless she is willing to talk to you. Some people are uncomfortable talking over the telephone. This

could be the case in your situation. If it is, your best bet is to find a way to see her; but be sure not to scare her more by approaching her in an uncomfortable setting or one in which she would feel threatened. Also, it is probably a good idea to preface whatever you say by telling her you want to talk to her, but there are no strings attached--no unspoken expectations. Use your own judgment and approach her gently. Good luck.

Sappho

Dear Sappho:

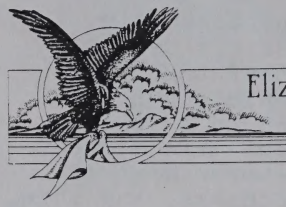
All you ever hear are problems. I want to add something light to your column. I want you and your readers to know that I am in a relationship with a woman who's been with me for a little more than 16 years. We are both very happy. Sure, we've had our problems over the years, but we've been able to work through them all. I just want people to know that relationships are difficult and stormy, but they are possible and can be extremely rewarding. So, to all those people out there who are struggling, have faith and keep loving.

G.L.

Dear G.L.:

Thanks for your letter and congratulations. In a world where we tend to focus more on problems than on the good things in our lives, it is always important to stop periodically and look at the rainbows and not just at the rain. Thanks again.

Sappho



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Michigan Teen Charged in Lesbian Sex Case

A Michigan girl who disguised herself as a boy and had sex with at least two 15-year-old girls has been charged with a felony by the Muskegon County prosecutor.

Mary Louise Medacco, 17, is charged with committing or procuring gross indecency between females. Medacco faces up to five years in prison if she is convicted during her jury trial in June.

According to an article in the tabloid Weekly World News, Medacco, a high school drop-out, became "Mario" when she dated. She bound her breasts with ace bandages and used a dildo to have sex. One of her partners, who were described in the article as "inexperienced," later discovered the truth about Medacco from friends and went to her parents, who contacted police.

Medacco will go to trial in a state with a history of prosecuting homosexual acts.

"We've seen arrests in Detroit with two men kissing good-night in a parking lot before going to separate cars," said Jeff Swanson, executive director of the Michigan Organization for Human Rights (MOHR), a Lesbian/gay rights organization. In another Michigan case, two women were sentenced to three years in prison after a state park ranger discovered them kissing naked in their zipped tent, Swanson said.

MOHR has asked a judge to declare the state's sodomy and gross indecency laws unconstitutional. Such laws in Michigan and 24 other states are used as a club for bashing gays, said Robert Bray, spokesman for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington. (Colorado, which has no such laws, is considered a "free" state, Bray said.)

Gay teen-agers at schools without a positive outreach and support program may respond to internal conflicts about their sexuality by deceiving themselves and others, Bray said.

"Gay and Lesbian youth are faced with an extremely stressful and isolated panorama. Quite often, they are forced to conceal their true sexual identity and conform to a societal sexual role."

-Cate Terwill

Women's Theatre Collective Presents "8 X 10 Glossy"

The cast is cast, the set isn't quite set (but moving along), and rehearsals are underway. "8X10 Glossy" - a play sponsored by our own NEW PHAZES - is slated to be performed at the Unitarian Church (730 N. Tejon) the evenings of May 31st, June 1st and 2nd at 8 pm each night. Tickets will be sold for $6 at the door. All proceeds from the show will be put back into NEW PHAZES - benefitting the whole community. Arrangements can be made - on a limited basis - to provide a "work for tickets" exchange. Please call Val Carberry (532-5010) or Ginger Morgan (633-0446) for details.

As explained in the last PHAZES, the story is one of a homecoming. Two sisters and their mother struggle with their relationships to one another - and to the world - after the death of the father. It is a moving story about learning to love - and to be loved. We're looking forward to sharing an evening of theatre with the women's community of Colorado Springs. We'll save you a seat.

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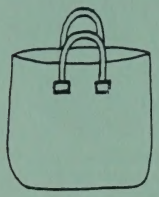

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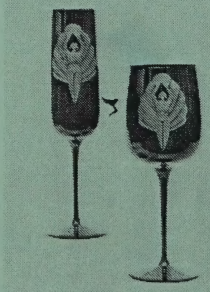

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Lesbians Get Pink-Tagged

CHARLOTTE INNES

"What of homosexuality, recognized by everyone in Corrections as an inevitable consequence of long-term segregation of the sexes? Having driven them to it, why punish for it?... Is this not the essence of women's prisons, the punishment of unchaste, unwomanly behavior, a grotesque bow to long-outmoded nineteenth-century notions of feminine morality?"

Jessica Mitford, Kind and Usual Punishment, The Prison Business.

It has been nearly 20 years since Jessica Mitford wrote her classic, crusading book on prisons, but little has changed. Consider the following:

•Prisoners in a Florida jail labeled homosexual are segregated from heterosexual prisoners and forced to wear red bracelets known as "pink tags." Pink-tagged inmates say this practice limits their privileges and makes them subject to continual harassment from corrections officers.

•A young lesbian in a Pennsylvania jail has been denied visitation with her 18-year-old lover because the warden says he can't condone homosexual relationships.

•A woman on parole in Oakland, California sought permission from her parole officer to visit her lover who lived in a neighboring county. He denied her request because he disapproved of their lesbian relationship.

These cases of overt instances of discrimination against lesbians in prisons have come under public scrutiny in recent months. The American Civil Liberties Union is investigating the Florida case and defending the Pennsylvania woman in federal court. A ruling is expected soon on the latter, and a decision favorable to the ACLU could have important ramifications.

"I think that the impact of this case will be to create a more positive legal atmosphere for homosexual prisoners, and for homosexuals in general," said Jere Krakoff, the ACLU attorney in the Pennsylvania case. "Any time you get a court to recognize the constitutional rights of homosexuals, I think it adds to the protections."

Dolina Evans/Impact Visuals

Institutionalized Homophobia

Like the outside world, prison has its share of homophobia. In prison, though, homophobia is institutionalized, the outcome of regulations forbidding physical contact. This means that corrections officers may in effect punish inmates for being gay, even though homosexuality is no longer against the law in the U.S. (though some states still have sodomy laws that discriminate exclusively against homosexuals). How and whether prison regulations are enforced depends totally on individual administrators, however.

"Some people who superintend women's prisons say the hell with it (homosexuality), let's not bother, it keeps things quiet—others take alarm at it," said Nicole Rafter, author of "Partial Justice" a history of women's prisons and a professor at Northeastern University in Boston.

Some prison administrators continue to see "homosexuality" as a perversion to be stamped out. Most, though, are fearful of signs that prisoners might be banding together, said Rafter. Officials say they must curb homosexual behavior for the protection of the inmates and for security reasons. They also say that prisoners exaggerate abuses. Nevertheless, corrections officers often use the anti-contact rule as a method of control, to punish prisoners (regardless of their sexual orientation) for acts which may involve no more than being too close to another person. And the punishment may often be arbitrary, say prisoners and experts. Women who are passive, feminine and well-behaved are frequently left alone, whether lesbian or not; whereas women who are assertive or simply masculine-looking may suffer, either from verbal harassment or by receiving a citation for homosexual behavior—a serious offense in prison and one which may cause a prisoner's sentence to be substantially increased.

Some feminist criminologists find it hard to believe that rules against homosexual behavior are still on the books.

Karlene Faith, a Canadian criminologist who has spent nearly 20 years working with women in prisons, chiefly in California, calls such regulations "futile—since we're dealing with people."

Faith and other criminologists note that women in prison form close relationships with each other simply out of human need. These relationships may vary. Some may be close friendships. Some may be sexual. Some lesbians never have a sexual relationship in jail. Some heterosexual women—known in prison slang as "Jailhouse Turn-Outs"—turn to lesbian relationships for comfort. Some women discover their lesbianism in jail.

Homosexual relationships formed in prison are estimated to be 30 or 40 percent of any given prison population—that is, higher than the generally accepted ten percent within the population at large. But criminologists note that such figures are unreliable, that prison administrators tend to exaggerate the existence of homosexual behavior, largely because they fear it as a threat to prison security. Indeed, far less overt sexual behavior in prison exists than is commonly believed, criminologists say, because of the lack of privacy—especially now that overcrowding has become such a chronic problem in prisons everywhere.

Against this background of misinformation and lack of understanding about human sexuality, the cases above are important, say prison experts. They reveal some of the abuses traditionally suffered in silence by lesbian prisoners. They also show how women in prison are questioning old assumptions of morality and attempting to expand the rights of gay people.

At the Polk County Jail in Florida, six lesbian prisoners filed complaints with the ACLU because, they say, gay prisoners are segregated and forced to wear red wrist-bands, which among both officers and inmates are known as "pink tags." Some 10 prisoners tagged as lesbians are placed separately in individual holding cells in the old jail—cells generally used for dangerous or sick prisoners, say the inmates.

In Florida, Robyn Blummer, an attorney with the ACLU called the practice "outrageous" and "a form of branding."

Loss of Privilege

Three women who were pink-tagged said, in letters and phone interviews, that being labeled a lesbian meant loss of certain privileges, such as showers and recreation time. Furthermore, so-called "pink-tags" cannot be trusties. (These are prisoners who, in return for doing certain chores, may be rewarded with substantially reduced sentences.)

"We're not allowed to go anywhere the others go," said Shirley Chasse, a 25-year-old lesbian prisoner who was pink-tagged. "For example, there are group therapy sessions held that people can freely go to on their own, but we can't."

In addition, she and the others say that being pink-tagged means being subject to harassment from the officers at the jail. Chasse said one officer calls her "a little boy" and a "faggot." Prison officials deny that such language is tolerated.

The officials claim that segregation of gay prisoners is for their own protection.

"There is a certain code in prison," said Lynn Breitenbach, the jail's public relations officer. "If you're a child molester you will probably stand a good chance of being physically beaten up at some point in your stay. Homosexuals fit into a category that is also looked down upon by many inmates and the sheriff has an obligation to protect their well being... It's not perhaps as crucial when we're talking about female inmates. But there is still violence among women, and many times the homosexual is the one who is the brunt of the violence."

Blummer of the ACLU says that's "absurd."

"If they want to identify inmates for security purposes, then you identify the predator versus the victim inmates and you separate them. You don't identify them on the basis of sexual preference."

During the booking procedure women are asked if they are homosexual and then tagged accordingly. Heterosexual prisoners wear white tags. Other colors are also used, such as yellow for juveniles and green for escape risks.

"I'm proud to be what I am, and I hope someday others will accept me for me, and not my sexual preference," said Tammy Green, 21. But Green denied she was gay at the booking interview on the grounds it was her own business.

"I feel we should be the ones to let him (the sheriff) know if we want to be isolated for our sexual preference," said Green.

Jail officials say they are considering changing the color-coding system to tags bearing a bar code similar to the ones imprinted on goods in supermarkets. But the new tags would still retain information about an inmate's sexuality, said jail officials. And the women said that still would not be acceptable.

"I want to see gays have the same rights as everyone else," said Chasse.

No Visits

In Pennsylvania, a 21-year-old lesbian in Blair County Prison feels the same way. She didn't see why she shouldn't have her lover come visit—just like the husbands and boyfriends of the other, heterosexual inmates.

"When you come to jail you expect your family to come see you, or whoever you love, or whatever", said Jane Doe in a phone interview. (Jane Doe is her name in the lawsuit she has filed against the jail. She does not want her real name used).

Last May, Doe sent a note to Warden Gary Sparks. "OK, I am in love with a woman and she loves me," she said. "We think we are like any other common couple. So would you please give me permission to have her visit me because we would like to see each other."

Sparks wrote back saying: "Request denied! We can't condone (sic) such relationships in a prison setting."

After Jane Doe wrote a second note, again saying she thought that she and her girlfriend were just like any other couple, Sparks wrote: "It is not the same. A man/woman relationship is not the same as a woman/woman relationship... I can't condone (sic) such a relationship and permit it to be extended through visits within the prison. When you are out of jail you can do what you want, but while you are here you will act according to the laws of Pennsylvania." (In fact, homosexuality is not illegal in Pennsylvania and it is one of 25 states without a sodomy law).

Sparks subsequently took the matter before the county prison board. One member, County Commissioner Donna D. Gority suggested that the warden interpret the prison visiting policy to allow same sex visits. At present, the policy permits visits by family, common law spouses or "boy/girlfriend." But Gority's motion died for lack of a second.

In the suit filed on her behalf in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, the ACLU maintains that Jane Doe's constitutional right of equal protection is being violated.

"The issue in this case is whether an entire classification of visits, namely visits by homosexual prisoners, can be excluded. The question is, can they classify homosexual inmates and treat them differently? We don't think the constitution would tolerate that," said Jane Krakoff, Jane Doe's attorney.

The lawyers are now awaiting a ruling by Judge D. Brooks Smith following a hearing on Dec. 14 in U.S. District Court in Johnstown, Pa.

Meanwhile, Jane Doe must be content with brief collect phone calls and letters. Her lover stops by the jail about once a month with clothes and money.

"They stare at her all the time," said Doe. "But she doesn't care, though. She just sticks her head up and leaves."

Her lover, who is 18, said: "It's really tough on me because, when she was out, that was the only thing on my mind. And it's like three times more on my mind now... But, you know I really like her a lot so I'm going to stick with it."

Jane Doe has received letters and signs of support from members of the community, including the Lesbian and Gay Student Alliance at nearby Penn State University who held a protest outside the jail in December.

"I'm just tired of being pushed around," she explained. "They can't tell me who I'm going to take as my lover, just because I don't like guys. I mean I don't have anything against them, it's just, you know, I like women.

"I just hope I can get a visit. Even if I didn't have a girlfriend, I'd still fight it."

Still, prison experts say that the changes sought by Jane Doe and the pink-tagged women in Florida will be hard to come by.

Traditionally, in cases of abuse or discrimination, the courts always deferred to the expertise of the administrators. And although this has changed somewhat, even rights now guaranteed by the courts are often denied because they rest in the hands of prison officials who frequently are afraid of change.

Homophobic attitudes also extend outside the prison walls, to prisoners on parole and to those going through the court system.

"You can really have a situation where your life is under complete discretion of a parole officer who can be very homophobic," said Ellen Barry, director of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children in San Francisco.

About three years ago, she said, a client who was on parole in Oakland was denied permission by her parole officer to visit with her lover in San Francisco. The couple had a longstanding lesbian relationship.

"He disapproved of the relationship, and he just decided on his own that she was a bad influence," said Barry. "In some cases, a relationship might be a negative factor, but in this case it was a positive one, and none of his damn business."

Continued on page 7

Pink-Tagged

Continued from page 6

Citations for homosexuality are seen as serious offenses, however. They go on a prisoner's record and affect the time a prisoner spends in jail. In California, for example, a prisoner cited for a homosexual offense can lose 30 days worth of so-called "goodtime credits," that is, days which may be deducted from a sentence for good behavior. A so-called "parole violation" can send a former prisoner back to jail.

Feminist criminologists find the physical contact rules "ridiculous," said Rafter at Northeastern. The underlying issue of sexual deprivation—even for heterosexuals, let alone gay people—is something rarely addressed by prison experts, however. Although cruel and unusual punishment is forbidden under the eighth amendment of the constitution, enforced sexual abstinence has always been accepted as part of prison life—even though "this condition causes anxiety and aggression, frustrates rehabilitation, and disrupts family relationships," notes the ACLU's handbook on The Rights of Prisoners.

As in the world outside, relationships formed between women in prison can be manipulative and self-seeking, but overall they are seen by many as a positive force—a force that teaches women to like themselves, and to learn a strength and independence that prison generally tries to stamp out. Karlene Faith, the Canadian criminologist, believes that relationships between women in prison represent "the singular most positive experience that can occur. All my experience was that women were really good friends to each other." Faith is currently an assistant professor at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, and is working on a book about women in prisons called "Curtains Over the Bars."

Towards the end of the book, she describes a telling experience of her own:

"During my second year of work at CIWI I was called to an urgent meeting with the superintendent and her highest ranking subordinates, a woman and two men. Staff had reported to them that I'd been seen kissing women (prisoners) who greeted my arrivals at the institution, and the nervous administrators wondered if I realized the seriousness of such behavior. I tried to explain that where I come from kisses and embraces are healthy, natural exchanges of affection, but they reminded me of the institution's rules, and warned me to use better judgement in the future. I am not categorically opposed to rules... But when rules become chains that prevent people from reaching out to each other, they are no longer good rules."

•The following organizations provide information and services to both current and former prisoners. Some of these groups aim to help lesbians in particular. Others have broader goals but are especially sympathetic to women and lesbians:

•Out/Inside: A Women's Newsjournal Focusing on Lesbian Prisoners, P.O. Box 2821, Oakland, CA 94609. Editor, Barbara Ruth. Published three times a year. "Free to locked up women." Suggested donation for others $1.50.

•Gay Community News, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116. Published weekly. Free to lesbian and gay prisoners. For others $1 per issue or $33 for an annual subscription. This newspaper has an ongoing project headed by Mike Riegle. It frequently publishes articles about and letters by gay and lesbian prisoners. The August 23-September 5, 1987 issue contains a special supplement on lesbian prisoners.

•Services OutSide, P.O. Box 4726, Saticoy Station, Ventura, CA 93004. Phone: (805) 646-4161. Formerly Sisters OutSide. Run by Judy C. Wahl, a former inmate. Published quarterly. Free to prisoners on request. Other subscription rates are: $10 a year, $8 a year for ex-offenders. SOS will soon publish "Transition 90," a directory of services for prisoners about to be released.

Charlotte Innes is a freelance writer living in Los Angeles, CA.

MICHAEL ROSEN

'Homophobia' is the wrong term for society's aversion

It's risky, these days, to write something that might displease homosexual activists. Nevertheless, I'll take the chance that the Gazette Telegraph has more journalistic integrity than CBS television displayed in its shoddy treatment of Andy Rooney.

What follows is not a moral assault or an exercise in homosexual bashing. And I'm not being patronizing when I say I've known some fine people who are homosexuals. This is a dispute about political tactics and terminology — specifically, the newly minted and media-fashionable epithet: "homophobe." The term is both inaccurate and contrived. Homosexual activists may use it as they wish, but the supposedly objective media ought to be more circumspect.

My Webster's defines "phobia" as: "an irrational, excessive, and persistent fear of some particular thing or situation." The key word, here, is "fear." Fear is not synonymous with disapproval or aversion. You can disapprove of something or find it distasteful while not being afraid of it. I'm repulsed, for example, when someone talks with food in his mouth and allows it to dribble down his chin, but it's not something that "scares" me.

Fear is not synonymous with disapproval. You can disapprove while not being afraid.

The term "homophobe" was crafted to turn the tables on heterosexual society. By its logic, it isn't homosexuals who have a problem, it's straight society. It has a "phobia." Homosexuals are healthy, the rest of society is sick. Good try, but that dog won't hunt. It's a transparent tactic to gain the semantical high ground.

I don't much care what consenting adults do in the privacy of their own homes — or motel rooms. That's a private matter. The public policy debate over homosexuality, however, isn't about what people do in private. It's about what they do in public. Homosexual activists aren't content to stay in the closet.

It's spring. Picture a boy and girl strolling hand-in-hand through the park, kissing every now and then. A few prudes might be offended by this public display of affection, but most people wouldn't be. Now, picture two men doing the same thing. It may not be illegal, but how do you think most people in our society would react?

That's the reality homosexuals resent. They want more than toleration, they want respectability and acceptance for their lifestyle. Their frustration comes when our essentially heterosexual society won't give them that. It goes way beyond kissing in the park. Sanctions are also imposed in sensitive career fields, like the military and education. This compounds the frustration.

In seeking legal recourse, homosexual activists have had limited success in attempting to cast themselves as a victim group, a persecuted minority entitled to constitutional protection. The difficulty with this argument is that there's a great deal of public resistance to the notion that one's sexual eccentricities are a legitimate definition of social status on a par with race, religion, age or gender.

To achieve full social equality and approval, homosexuals would have to dispel a long-standing and highly sensitive societal taboo that offends traditional moral and religious values.

Objectively speaking, homosexuality is clearly unnatural. That is, contrary to nature. This should be obvious. The most fundamental characteristic of a creature of nature is to reproduce itself. It's neither mean-spirited, phobic, nor surprising that most people with a natural heterosexual impulse find homosexuality, and the prospect of the act itself, discomfitting.

That's not a justification for abuse or even ostracism of homosexuals, it's simply an explanation of why homosexuality, while tolerated, continues to be socially unacceptable. That judgment is a prerogative of society. Who's to say it's wrong?

Roberts is a scholar at Georgetown University and a former deputy Treasury secretary in the Reagan administration.

Reprinted from ACLU, Civil Liberties (number 368)

Red Tags for Gays Scrapped

In the last issue of *Civil Liberties* (number 368), Florida affiliate director Robyn E. Blumner reported on the odious "pink-tagging" policy adopted by officials of the Polk County Jail to distinguish gay inmates among the prison population. It was reported that 30 of the 1,199 inmates at the jail were forced to wear red bracelets to symbolize their sexual identity.

We are pleased to report that the Polk County Sheriff's Office has announced the discontinuation of the practice—for budgetary reasons. On January 12, 1990, Captain Dale C. Tray, of the Sheriff's Office, addressed the following memorandum to "Concerned Personnel":

"**SUBJECT:** Detention Bureau Directive #90-08, Discontinuation of Special Classifications.

Effective this date, the following special classifications will be discontinued: State Prisoner; Homosexual; Weekender.

As a result, the colored armbands associated with these special classifications will be discontinued. The inmates who would have fallen into these classifications will be classified as general population and housed according to misdemeanor/felony and pretrial/ sentenced.

Although the system was of benefit to both the staff and inmate population, it is no longer cost effective. . . .

Inmates who previously fell into these classifications who feel they would be in danger if placed into general population may request, in writing, to be placed in protective custody."

ACLU

MIKE ROYKO

Some gays' closet doors are meant to stay closed

Some militant homosexuals have come up with a new idea for improving their self-esteem, increasing political power, exaggerating their importance and getting themselves invited on TV shows that are in need of addle-brained guests.

These militants claim to know the identity of many homosexuals who go through life posing as heterosexuals. In other words, those who choose to stay in the closet.

But the militants want them to come out of the closet, whether they want to or not, and become visible members of what is known as the "gay community."

At this point, I have to say that I've never really understood the definition of the "gay community." Presumably, some unemployed gay drug addict would be a member of this community. So would a wealthy gay polo-playing socialite. But other than how they choose to use their sexual appendages, I don't see that they have much in common, and it's unlikely the socialite would invite the gay drug addict to cocktails. So how close-knit a community can it be?

That question aside, the homosexual militants are now using something called "outing." This means that if they have reason to believe, or even strongly suspect, that someone is a homosexual, they reveal it in one of their newspapers, picket his residence and make his sexual preferences public. That's where the word "outing" comes from. They drag him out of the closet.

This has created a controversy, which delights the militant homosexuals. With bumbling Andy Rooney off the hook, things have been quiet on the gay front. There is always AIDS, of course. But it has slowly sunk into the consciousness of most Americans that far more people die of cancer, heart disease and other afflictions. But when the president makes a speech, you don't see many cancer victims showing up to screech that he is insensitive to their needs.

Those who practice or favor "outing" provide two motives. One group says it wants to punish secret homosexual politicians who are not sympathetic enough to homosexual causes. The other says it wants to expose prominent, successful homosexuals to provide ordinary homosexuals with "role models."

The opposing view is that under our system of law, an American's home is his castle. Even a cop has to obtain a search warrant before barging in. So if a secret homosexual's home is his castle, his closet is a nook in his castle, and if he doesn't want to be dragged out of his closet, that's his right.

But the "outing" practitioners say that closet homosexual politicians are hypocritical and have no right to privacy. And it is the duty of prominent gays to serve as "role models."

In other words, what they do might appear to be an invasion of privacy, but as the saying goes, you have to break a few eggs to make an omelet. Or, as Slats Grobnik might put it, you have to peel a few fruits to make a fruit salad. (Look, don't accuse me of being insensitive. You're the ones who are poking into someone's closet.)

COMMENTARY

This controversy is stirring strong feelings and growing debate, but I can't make up my mind.

On the one hand, I believe that what a couple of consenting males choose to do with their genitalia is their own concern, so long as they don't do it on my front porch, in the company lunchroom, in the middle of Michigan Avenue or at home plate during the singing of the National Anthem. In other words, they should be discreet and respect the sensibilities of those who are indifferent to their leering, panting and moaning.

On the other hand, it might be interesting — at least for Geraldo and Oprah — to see what happens if the militants pursue their policy of "outing."

I would guess that what we'll see is a show in which the proud militants are sitting there with a few of those who have been dragged from their closets, and the conversation will go something like this:

"Bill, you were a successful corporate executive and a pillar of your community and had a wife and three kids before it was disclosed in the Boys Will Be Boys News that you secretly stopped for drinks and other activities at the Swell Guys Lounge. How has your life been affected by being dragged out of the closet?"

"Well, my wife was very understanding and said she would have her lawyer take only the house, the summer home, the cars and 90 percent of our savings, as well as full custody of my children.

"The CEO at my company said he is very understanding and said he would write a glowing reference letter to the school of hairstyling of my choice.

"All three of my children are now in therapy. The last time I saw them, they said that I have been replaced as their role model by Chuck Norris.

"Other than that, things are going OK. I'm still a member of my golf club, although there is a debate whether my locker should be in the men's or women's locker room."

"But are you more at peace with yourself now that you are no longer living a life of deceit, duplicity and sham?"

"Not quite. But I'm approaching a feeling of tranquility and will be there after I make one more move."

"What's that?"

"When I shoot that little sumbitch that opened my closet door."

Royko is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune.

Navy sued by demoted ex-Marine

Praise of gay colleague cited

New York Times News Service

A former Marine sergeant who lost her assignment as a drill instructor at the Parris Island, S.C., Marine base after testifying that a lesbian colleague "did a fine job" has asked the Navy to award her back pay and to restore her good-service record.

The former sergeant, Christine R. Hilinski, argues in legal papers filed with the Navy recently that the Marine Corps violated both her First Amendment rights and the Code of Military Justice when it reassigned her, cut her salary and put a negative report in her file after the favorable testimony she gave of the lesbian drill instructor in the July 14, 1988, court-martial of the drill instructor.

The same supervisor that put into Hilinski's service record a report that her "judgment is questionable" had earlier in the month filed a report calling Hilinski "dedicated, polished, professional and dependable" and saying "her judgment is outstanding," the legal papers say.

Under questioning at the court-martial, Hilinski said the drill instructor, Sgt. Cheryl Jameson, "did a fine job" and that her work had not been affected by her homosexuality.

Asked whether "homosexual activity between superiors and subordinates, in your opinion, is OK in the Marine Corps," Hilinski said, "No, sir, it is not."

Jameson pleaded guilty to charges of indecent acts and fraternization with a female recruit. She was sentenced to a year in prison, demoted to private and dishonorably discharged.

After 11 years as a Marine, Hilinski left the service last February. The back pay she is seeking, $1,320, represents the difference in the amount she would have received as a drill instructor and the pay she drew in her new assignment.

No hearing date has been set for her petition.

Lt. Col. Fred Peck, a spokesman for the Marines in Washington, said it was not a question of retaliation or of punishing Hilinski for failing to share her commander's views on homosexuality.

Rather, he said, her testimony showed that she did not share a belief in the rules that her job as drill instructor required her to enforce.

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Reprinted from the March 29th Gazette Telegraph

Gays not like other minorities

Just a few words in response to Robin Miller's letter of March 12, "Big Brothers' policy anti-gay." First, the statement that the referenced editorial was anti-gay is correct.

The inference in Robin's letter that there is something wrong with that, however, I find very interesting. It is amazing to me that people constantly try to compare gays with legitimate minorities. The "black people or Jewish people" that Robin refers to are discriminated against on the basis of color or ethnic origin. That form of discrimination is deplorable.

Gay people, on the other hand, are singled out because of specified activities they choose to be engaged in. That form of discrimination is practiced by all forms of government, and all societies. We discriminate against murderers, rapists and thieves by removing their freedoms.

To claim that adhering to moral values, the fabric of any society, is the same as racial discrimination is ridiculous. The only thing that prevents child molesters from becoming a protected minority is the fact that society's values have not depreciated to the point that pedophilia is considered an "alternate lifestyle." If society has the right to decide that rape is not acceptable, it also reserves the right to decide about other behaviors. If this amounts to "legitimized bigotry," then so be it.

Societies retain the right to be discriminating in choosing activities that are acceptable, as well as those which are not. It is laughable that gays claim minority status in order to protect their "right" to engage in activities that members of "mainstream" society find repulsive.

The whole purpose of Big Brothers/Big Sisters is to provide children with love, self-esteem and a role model. It is only good policy to provide a role model that reflects the values of society at large.

I applaud the District of Columbia's Big Brothers/Big Sisters decision to stand against the "liberal" tide, and choose role models with a standard of conduct acceptable to the "mainstream," and the courage of the Gazette Telegraph and its staff in bringing that decision to our attention.

March 29

— **Blair Harrison**
Colorado Springs

Reprinted From the

Homosexuality no excuse for bias

I was repulsed by the bigotry in Blair Harrison's letter of March 21. Harrison's anti-gay sentiments are not only closed-minded, but they border on an advocation of limiting civil liberties.

Homosexuals do what they want to do sexually. In many states homosexuality is illegal. The problem with this country's laws is that they assume that what is right and moral for the majority is right and moral for all.

To compare gays to "murderers, rapists and thieves," by suggesting that their activities are equally reprehensible is ignorant and dangerous. Harrison discriminates against gays because they do not "adhere to moral values." I wonder of whose moral values Harrison speaks. To me and to many, a person is not judged as moral or immoral by his sexual practices. I cannot understand why this society has such trouble accepting opinions and ideals that are contrary to its own.

Discriminating against gays is just as humanly offensive as discriminating against blacks or other minorities. Why do "members of 'mainstream' society" find homosexuality "repulsive"? That is a problem, not a given from which to begin an argument for gay discrimination. Can anyone honestly justify his hatred of gays? Quoting the Bible is no answer, as you cannot base such an all-encompassing concept as morality on something in which only a very few believe.

Harrison says, "If society has the right to decide that rape is not acceptable, it also reserves the right to decide about other behaviors." This is a very poor comparison. Rape is wrong because another person's freedom is compromised. Homosexuality cannot be wrong, because the participants are consenting. Society should decide only this about homosexuality: People are free to do whatever they please, as long as it hurts no one.

It shouldn't make any difference, but I am heterosexual. I point this out only to show that I am not biased in any way. I don't even know any gays.

I am disappointed in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters decision in the District of Columbia. To say that only heterosexuals can provide children with "love, self-esteem and a role model" is to send a message to our children that homosexuals are worthy of nothing but contempt and discrimination. They must have the same rights as anyone.

March 29

— **Michael Robbins**
Colorado Springs

Rules of society: People trying to rationalize homosexual behavior are full of illogical and plain stupid statements. One of the cornerstones of a society is an agreed-upon code of ethics which is accepted by the majority. Whether these values are based on religion, natural law, personal ethics or plain common sense, the majority accepts them as good. This society considers homosexual actions to be perverted as it considers prostitution and pornography to be wrong. To imply homosexual acts are OK since the actors are consenting and do not affect anyone else, doesn't hold water. Billions of tax dollars are being spent on AIDS — dollars that could be spent on more worthwhile projects.

Bad idea: It is a biological fact that homosexual couples cannot procreate. So how is homosexuality continued from generation to generation? Through recruitment. Allowing homosexuals into a Big Brothers/Big Sisters club would not be the thing to do.

A choice: Gays and lesbians are not a minority group. These people had free choice in choosing their lifestyle. True minorities don't have a choice.

More complicated: I couldn't believe the person who believes that Big Brothers/Big Sisters could be used by homosexuals to recruit additional gay people. It is well known that homosexuality is not so much a process of recruitment as one of discovery.

Read the facts: Homosexuality is not always a free choice or a chosen lifestyle. Children are born this way and have ambition, compassion, sensitivity, intelligence and love of family. These attributes have fallen short by many people in our society.

Become informed: When are people going to put aside ignorance about AIDS and realize that it is not now nor was it ever an exclusively gay disease? People should stop looking for an excuse to focus hatred and show some compassion.

Molding years: Most young children are very trusting, gullible and naive. They most often look up to their teachers and counselors as role models. No one could convince me that a homosexual would not have an impact on a young child's mind.

Need balance: Along with Schroeder-bashing, gay-bashing, woman-bashing and liberal-bashing, the Gazette Telegraph can also say that it is a basher of disabled persons. This town needs a more balanced editorial staff.

Time to reflect: With the death of Ryan White, members of the homosexual community should hang their heads in shame. He is the best known of many innocent victims of AIDS, brought on by this group who demand acceptance but continue to act with complete irresponsibility.

Stands firm: I don't like to be told that I am ignorant when I associate AIDS with homosexuals. I have nothing but compassion to the point of tears for all the innocent victims, especially the children. AIDS started out as a disease of homosexuals and drug addicts.

BETWEEN THE SHEETS

EDITORS' NOTE: Between the Sheets is a regular column on Lesbian sex and sexuality. This column is based primarily on the writings of Lesbian sex experts, but may contain the opinions and kinky experiences of the author.

In last month's discussion of sex fantasies, we neatly side-stepped a topic that some Lesbians find both titillating (who made up that word?) and taboo: Sado-masochism. This month - after much thought, and because "Lesbian Sex" fell open to the page on S/M and we couldn't think of anything else to write about - we'll tackle love at first bite.

"Slap-happy sex is an acquired taste, one quite a few Lesbians have tasted, but few acquire, despite its large press and hetero chic," author Celeste West writes. "Women of originality can rarely bear to become caricatures of patriarchal dominance/submission. Another aspect of S/M which is anti-erotic to many Lesbians is its sado-puritan side. Much of its 'feeling' is based on terrible and unreal guilts."

Having dispensed with our politically correct statement on S/M, let's look a little deeper. For starters, what the heck is it?

While Lesbian sex expert JoAnn Loulan defines S/M as "sex play that involves exchanges of power and using pain as a form of erotic excitment," the line between S/M and exciting sex is blurred for many of us. Do you define tying your lover to the bedposts with silk scarves as S/M? Probably not - unless, of course, she's allergic to silk. What about using leather ankle or wrist cuffs? Or pinning your lover's wrists up against the wall and kissing her so violently that she cries out - or was that a moan?

"S/M brought our diversity in pain/pleasure thresholds to light," West writes. "What is raw pain to you may be blissfully stimulating to a tiger cub of a Lesbian."

Apart from its excitement value, S/M should be appreciated for the truths it uncovers, West says: "How often do we conduct relationship conflicts in a verbal S/M theater of violence, never acknowledging that psychological pain can be as cruel as physical? S/M dramatically reveals to us that all relationships are based on elements besides love - and these are power and control."

Because such primal feelings are involved, it's best not to go to bed with whips and chains unless you're also going to take your good judgment, West says. "Perhaps the essential question to ask is: When is it foolhardy or exploiting to play with profound forces like our sensational limits - and when is it healing and transformative? Does our motivation come from the will to power or does it flow from the heart of love's energies?"

Your homework this month? As you wish. One tip: If you do engage in S/M, first establish a safe word you can invoke to tell your lover to stop what she's doing. "Don't' or "Stop" won't cut it. Come up with something unmistakable and unrelated to sex, like "teenage mutant ninja turtles," but shorter.

-Cate Terwilliger

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ROOMMATE(S) WANTED: Share house in Vista Grande Terrace. Downstairs - 2 Bdr, Rec Rm, 3/4 bath, washer/dryer. $250/mo. (neg) Plus own long distance calls. Must have proof of steady income, like cats, dogs, peace and quiet. 3-mo. lease.

Call Diane 599-9321.

PLAYERS WANTER: For softball team. Major sponsor. 1st year team to play in park and rec women's mid-level rec league, will play Monday nights thru August. All positions, no fee.
Call Diane 599-9321.

SEEK HOUSESITTER: For 1 week mid-June and some weekends. Call Jackie 630-8992.

SEEK PART TIME AM work: Have experience in retail sales, all office work, light industrial and telemarketing. Prefer steady hours at $6 per hour. Call Jackie 630-8992.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL: Less music and more talk - tentative date May 19, 2-5 p.m All Souls Unitarian Church. Call Pat Killen 574-5865 for more info. Definite date will follow.

WANTED: Peer Support People. Call Pat Killen 574-5865

HAVE A PROBLEM OR QUESTION? Call 574-5865 for information for Peer Support Program.

TO MY DARLING DAUGHTER CHERYL JARDIN:

Honey, you have brought me great joy! Your Dad and I were so excited when you were born. You were a beautiful baby and turned into a lovely adult. You march to your own tune and I admire that in you. I may not always agree with your decisions but I support them 100 percent! My first daughter, I love you so much and am very proud of you. My wishes for you are much happiness, success and love in your life.

Love ya,
Mom

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INFORMATION GUIDE

Colorado Springs

U.C.C.S. - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual questioning: Call John Miller at 593-3108 or Jackie Beyer at 593-3161.

Battered Women Center (For all women): 633-3819.

G.A.L.A. (Gay and Lesbian Alliance) - Colorado College: Call student center or info at 473-2233.

40 plus (older Lesbians support group): contact the gay help line at 471-4429.

S.O.S. (Sisters of Sappho): meets every Thursday. Call the gay help line at 471-4429.

Step One: contact the gay help line at 471-4429.

On going Lesbian Psychotherapy Group: 6-8 pm Contact Linda Sutton at 632-0465.

P.P.M.C.C. (Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church): Call 634-3771.

Together As One (Lesbian bookstore): 2202 Sumter Drive. Call 473-2552.

NOW (National Organization for Women): 3rd Wednesday of each month. Call 574-5865.

G.A.A. (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous): Monday and Friday at 8:00 pm. Golden Acres Mobile Home Park in the Club House, 5150 Airport Road. 6:30 pm at Memorial Hospital PDR North. Call AA Hotline - 24 hours - 634-5020.

S-CAP (Southern Colorado Aids Project): Call 578-9092.

Unite: Support/social for singles & couples. Call help line at 471-4429.

Ancient Mariner (mixed bar): 962 Manitou Ave. Call 685-5503.

Hour Glass (mixed bar): 2748 Airport Rd. Call 471-2104.

True Colors (mixed bar): 1865 N. Academy Blvd. Call 637-0773.

Denver

P-F.L.A.G. (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays): Call (303)333-0286.

S.O.L. (Slightly Older Lesbians): meets 2nd Saturday of each month. Call (303)388-8611.

Divine Madness (Lesbian bar): 2727 W. 6th Ave. Call (303) 892-9252.

Boulder

T.L.C. (The Lesbian Connection): meets 1st Sunday of each month. P.O. Box 12312, Boulder, CO 80303.

National

The Fund For Human Dignity: New York based toll free crises line. Call 1-800-SOS-GAYS or 1-800-767-4297. Hours are 5-10 p.m., Monday-Friday; 1-5 p.m. Saturday Eastern Standard Time.

Gateway Battered Women's Shelter (For Lesbian Battering): 24 hour hotline. Call 1-800-333-SAFE.

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